Use of chemical fertilizers

4009. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether continuous use of chemical fertilizers has deleterious effects on soil fertility;

(b) whether, to increase the foodgrains production, the farmers are just injecting a lot of nitrogen and thus doing damage to our agriculture;

(c) if so, the steps taken to educate the farmers about judicious use of chemical fertilizers; and

(d) whether organic food is having good nutrient value and if so, the measures taken to bring awareness among farmers to use organic source of nutrients to produce nutrientional food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The average consumption of chemical fertilizers in the country is 104.5 Kg./ha. (NPK nutrients) which is far less than other developing countries. There is no indication of large scale degradation of soil health and crop productivity in the country due to use of chemical fertilizers. However, there are few instances of deterioration of soil fertility/ certain nutrient deficiencies in some parts of the country, especially in Indo-Gangetic plains due to inadequate and imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers.

(c) The Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), which envisage soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micronutrients in conjuction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers under various schemes.

(d) Organic Food is normally of good nutritional value. The Government is promoting the production, promotion, certification and market development of organic produce in the country under various schemes.